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STROUD RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health, 1945.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1945, which in accordance with Circular 28/46 is again an abridged one pending instructions to the contrary.

Infectious Diseases.

Scarlet Fever Only 43 cases were notified as compared with 114 cases in 1944, 2 cases proved not to be this disease.

Diphtheria 9 cases were notified as compared with 4 in 1944. 5 were found not to be cases of the disease, of the remaining 4, two were adults and two children, one of whom had not been immunised. The Immunisation Scheme has been continued with success. It is estimated that at the end of the year there were in the area 3,854 children under 15 years of age protected giving a percentage of 72. This however must be considered only an approximate figure owing to the difficulty of calculating it with any degree of accuracy. I have reason to believe the figure is higher.

No deaths were recorded from the disease.

Cerebro Spinal Fever One case was notified which proved to be Tubercular Meningitis after further examination.

Typhoid Fever 6 cases were notified in the Residential Nursery referred to in last year's report. In spite of an extensive investigation the source of the infection was never discovered with certainty, but was thought to have originated outside the district. No deaths were recorded.

<u>Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Notifications</u>	<u>Death Rates (per million)</u>
	1939 - 22	448
	1940 - 23	595
	1941 - 21	441
	1942 - 24	386
	1943 - 28	511
	1944 - 38	668
	1945 - 45	558

Of the 45 cases notified, 11 were Ex-Service personnel belonging to the area.

Of the remainder the notifications referred to persons resident in the following parishes:- Painswick 3, Woodchester 4, Stonehouse 6, Minchinhampton 5, King's Stanley 6, Rodborough 2, Thrupp 2, Leonard Stanley 2, Cranham 2, Pitchcombe 1, Chalford 1.

Statistics Birth Rate 18.1 per 1,000 as compared with 19.5 last year.
Death Rate 14.2 per 1,000 as compared with 13.3 last year.
Infantile Mortality 41.7 per 1,000 as compared with 32.2 per 1,000 last year.
Estimated population 25,060.

Housing The Council are well aware of the housing needs of the district and have plans for the erection of houses in most of the parishes. Unfortunately, however, there have been inevitable delays due to causes beyond their control and it is not expected that houses will be built in any quantity until the middle of 1946. The housing survey as required by the Ministry is well in hand at the time of writing. It reveals that a large number are unfit for human habitation.

Sewerage Work has not yet started ~~on~~ the new comprehensive sewerage scheme to cover the whole district, but the public enquiries have been held and it is hoped that the work of the new main sewers will commence shortly.

Water Supplies As stated in previous reports the water supplied by the Stroud Water Board is in excellent quality and sufficient in quantity. The Board are actively alive to the need for the extension of their mains to more parts of the area not now supplied and have submitted a scheme for improvements and extensions (including a low level resevoir) to the Ministry of Health. The necessary public enquiry has been held.

The parishes relying on springs and wells for their supplies are often short of water in times of drought, and bacteriological examination of the water often shows very undesirable and possibly dangerous pollution. There is no doubt that the time has come when the public are demanding quite rightly, in the Rural Areas, a piped water-supply and efficient Sanitary arrangements.

Main Supply (Water) Regular examinations of the main water supply are undertaken (bacteriological and chemical). Monthly samples from each source are the general rule and last year 46 were taken. With the exception of the Minchinhampton Reservoir. B. Coli is absent in 100ccs. Reference has already been made in previous reports of the necessity for covering this resevoir which is a service one and liable to contamination from gulls and the like.

The chemical analysis shows that the water is very hard, although pure.

Total Dissolved Solids	32.0 (parts per 100,000)
Combined Chlorine	1.1
Nitrogen present as Nitrates	0.148
Nitrogen present as Nitrites	absent
Mineral Ammonia	absent
Organic Ammonia	absent
Oxygen required to oxidise the organic matter in 3 hours.	none
Temporary Hardness	22.0
Permanent Hardness	4.2
Total Hardness	26.2

Approximately 80 per cent of the residents in the area are supplied with main water. In Bisley parish a supply from a bore hole has been installed by stand pipes as the Seven Springs supply has always shown evidence of gross contamination. Where the springs are unfit for domestic purposes, the users are advised to boil it before drinking although there is reason to believe that they do not do so.

In conclusion I would like to thank the Council and the members of the Public Health Committee for their co-operation and support throughout the year, and for the assistance offered to me by the Sanitary Inspectors and the members of the other Departments.

I have the honour to be Your obedient servant,

NICHOLAS D. DUNSCOMBE
(Medical Officer of Health)

July, 1946.

